AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE ! EDUCATE ! ORGANIZE !

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains the first summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

MINERS DIDN'T ACCEPT GARFIELD PROPOSAL

Washington, Dec. 20.—Despite contrary claims, the miners did not accept the recent nation-wide strike settlement plan of Fuel Administrator Garfield, which they had previously rejected.

This statement that the miners reversed themselves was insistently made by a large section of the public press in its editorial comment on the end of the strike.

The Philadelphia North American said:

"The president's proposal embodied almost literally the terms and conditions laid down by Fuel Administrator Garfield, when he was ago, at which time they were scornfully rejected by the representatives of the union."

The New York Times would create the impression that the miners reversed themselves by its reference to "the miners' acceptance of an increase in wages which they had once rejected as 'ridiculous'."

The Washington Evening Star said:

"The settlement now effected is almost exactly on the lines laid down by Fuel Administrator Garfield, as well as spokesman for the government."

The Evening Star starts its editorial by declaring confidently that "a mischievous effect will result from the settlement of the coal strike if it is made to appear as a victory for the strikers."

The records of the case show that the government's first proposition, known as the Garfield plan, which was rejected by the miners, has no resemblance to the government's second proposition, known as the Wilson plan, which was accepted by the miners.

The Garfield plan provided for a 14 per cent wage increase on the theory that this would restore the high living standards of miners. The president's plan calls for a 27 per cent increase until a commission, with power of decision, investigates wages and other conditions.

Both plans provide for a commission to investigate wages and the industry as a whole. The Garfield commission would be only advisory, depending on the good will of the coal owners and the public's interest to secure an enforcement of its findings. The president's commission will consist of a representative of the government, of the miners and of coal owners. It will have authority to make final decisions and will have all the powers that the fuel administrator has exercised.

By being seconded by this commission, Dr. Garfield has resigned.

INJUNCTIONS OPPOSED.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The abuse of the injunction writ is the paramount issue that concerns the people of this country, declared the conference of executives of national and international trade unions and railroad brotherhoods, held in this city December 13.

"Government by injunction has grown out of the perversion of the injunction writ," the call declares. "By the misuse of that process workers have been forbidden to do those things which are free to all natural and constitutional right to do.

"The injunction as now used is a revolutionary measure which substitutes government by judicial discretion or bias for government by law. It makes a judge, in effect, one man, a judge, in his discretion, the whole jury. It makes of him the injunction process undermines and destroys the very foundations of our institutions. It is the subversive of the spirit of a free people and is the surest destroyer of an orderly and rational manner.

"Because we have reverence for law, because we believe that every citizen must be a guardian of the heritage given us by our fathers who fought for and established freedom and democracy, to preserve lawful means we must resist the establishment of a practice that would destroy the very spirit of freedom and democracy.

"Protest against the abuse of the writ of injunction and its unwarrantable application to labor in the exercise of its normal activities to realize laudable aspirations is a duty we owe to ourselves and to posterity."

MAKE STATE RIGHTS PLEA.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The federal tax on the profits of concerns employing child labor is a violation of the rights of states, it is held by attorneys for southern manufacturers who are asking the Supreme Court to restrain collection of the annual tax.

The law applies to concerns that ship goods in interstate commerce and who employ children under 14 years of age. The district court has previously ruled in the case of the child labor law that while congress has no right to debar child labor products from interstate commerce, the child labor tax law is a state function. The present tax law does not prohibit child labor products from interstate commerce, but levies a tax of 10 per cent on the profits of such industries.

Defenders of the law insist that it is intended to raise revenue, while child labor advocates hold that it is a round-about way to interfere with state rights.

STEEL STRIKERS FED.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—The National Co-Operative Society says that the public press claim that the steel strikers are losing is not borne out by the fact that they are being shipped from the co-operative wholesale to the strike centers. It is also stated that recently this volume has increased 50 per cent.

"When the strike is won," says the Co-Operative News, "we shall be credited with the big share of the winning."

PORTO RICANS STRIKE.

San Juan, Porto, Dec. 20.—Several hundred employes of the American Railway company suspended work and enforced a new working schedule and improved working conditions.

RATIFY WOMEN SUFFRAGE.

Denver, Dec. 20.—The state legislature has ratified the equal suffrage amendment to the federal constitution. This makes the twenty-second state that has taken such action.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET.

Roanoke, Idaho, Dec. 20.—The fifth annual convention of the state federation of labor will be held in this city beginning January 12 next.

Illogical "Reasoning" Of Newspaper Editors

Washington, Dec. 20.—Many newspaper editors advanced their usual illogical "reasoning" during the recent coal miners' strike.

These editors continually referred to wage rates that had permitted the miners to live like multimillionaires. Later the editors denounced the miners for rejecting the Garfield 14 per cent wage increase.

These "molders of public opinion" do not appreciate the ridiculous position a man who charges the miners with "profiteering" and then praises the Garfield plan, which its sponsor stated was based on the theory that the 14 per cent wage increase would re-establish miners' living standards that existed in 1913, or before this country entered the war.

Favors "Americanism"; Says Workers Can't Quit

Washington, Dec. 20.—In a speech before the Lawyers' club of this city, Senator Frank Kellogg advocated "Americanism." He also called for legislation that would prohibit wage workers from quitting their employment when conditions are unsatisfactory.

In favoring compulsory industrial arbitration courts, he said: "Civil problems go to civil courts, why not industrial problems to industrial courts?"

The senator of the United States senate made no distinction between a man suing for damages and denying men the American right of quitting their employment.

Senator Kenyon's brand of "Americanism" was not applauded by the lawyers, who ignored a declaration known as the federal constitution, and which contains several references to human rights.

STEEL MEN FULL OF FIGHT.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Steel strikers are full of fight and as determined as ever to end autocracy in this industry the same spirit was manifesting in this city of the national steel corporation executives and employes and representatives of the two-score international unions involved. The conference pledged its aid to Chairman Gary and associate members of the industry's committee.

It was stated that 140,000 are on strike and production in many instances has gone to 100 per cent, while other mills are completely tied up. Some departments are operating and steel of a certain grade is being produced, but there is more smoke than steel.

The steel trust's autocracy has developed into the industry and it is stated that even if the strike was declared off now no one could give a fair estimate of the time required to place the industry on a normal basis. The conference pledged its financial and moral support to the associate members of the industry's committee.

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HUGH PROFITS IN SHIPS.

Washington, Dec. 20.—"Fabulous" and "unbelievable" profits were made by some ship owners during the war, according to John H. Rosetter, connected with the United States shipping board, who testified before a senate committee.

It was stated that one ship, operating between Seattle and Australia-Calcutta, India, earned more than $800,000 in one year—360 days. The total profits were about $750,000.

The first ship launched from the Hog Island yards, Philadelphia, earned a net profit of $462,151 in one voyage. The original investment of the government control were exceptional, the witness said, but vessels under private management exceeded these figures.

During the war the government fixed a freight rate to Europe of $56 a ton. The British rate was $70.

Profits due to slackings and other causes amounting to about $25,000,000, the witness said, have since been paid by the government.

JUDGES TO HANDLE STRIKES.

Boston, Dec. 20.—A committee of the state legislature will report "the legislation necessary" on the bill to prevent strikes, it was announced. The committee has concluded that injunction judges can handle these strikes under the equity jurisdiction of the courts and the police power of the commonwealth.

The committee's decision is in line with decisions by the state supreme court, which has ruled that while workers have the right to strike the public has the right to protect itself by injunction and legislation against the abuse of this right.

STANDS FOR FREE SPEECH.

Seattle, Dec. 20.—"If there is anything in any political life that cannot bear criticism, let it crack," said Acting Mayor Lane of this city in a public address. He declared that the speaker declared for Americanism of the right kind.

"Real freedom," he continued, "does not make it a crime to discuss freedom. There are two kinds of people: those who fear and distrust the people, and those who believe in them and identify themselves with the people. The man who distrusts the people has no faith in democracy."

OIL MAY SUPPLANT COAL.

New York, Dec. 20.—Fuel oil, 80 per cent of which is brought from Mexico, may oust coal from its commanding position, said Charles S. Allen, secretary of a coast defense association, in a speech before a group of those business men. The speaker has been a consistent foe of this quasi-fuel and finds that oil is used where coal prices are high.

"Fuel oil has become a menace to the coal trade," he said, "and more thought has been given to it the last few weeks than ever before."

SWITCHMEN UNITE.

North Platt, Neb., Dec. 20.—Switchmen at this place have organized and affiliated with the Switchmen's Union of North America.

Workers Discuss and Act On Present-Day Problems

Washington, Dec. 20.—The third special conference of national and international trade union executives in the history of the American Federation of Labor was held in this city December 13. The meeting was called by the A. F. of L. executive council. Representatives of 19 national brotherhoods were also present.

The conference was called to consider present-day problems. In the declarations agreed to after an all-day's session are the following:

"Autocratic, political and corporate industrial and financial masters of the our country have sought, and are seeking, to infringe upon and limit the fundamental rights of the wage-earners guaranteed by the constitution of the United States."

It was declared that the right to strike as a final means of enforcing justice from an autocratic control of industry must be maintained, and that the autocratic attitude of the United States steel corporation and its subsidiaries "must give way to a better understanding and relation, and to secure the wage earners in the exercise of their rights and liberties as free workers and citizens."

The conference demanded that employes in the government service and municipal service be not molested in the right to belong to unions affiliated with the A. F. of L.

Government by injunction was denounced as "a revolutionary measure which substitutes government by judicial discretion or bias for government by law" and "destroys the very foundations of our free institutions."

The Cummins anti-strike plan and similar proposed legislation was declared to be vicious in character and an attempt to establish by legislation involuntary servitude.

Election of federal judges for terms not exceeding six years was favored. Attention was called to the absence of any provision in the constitution that drafted the federal constitution. Federal control being empowered to declare laws unconstitutional.

Anti-trust legislation, said the conference, should be more perfected, and to outlaw trade unions, but it has failed to protect the people against "the outrageous machinations of combinations and monopolies of trade."

"There is a widespread belief that wages should be fixed on a cost of living basis. This idea is pernicious and intolerable. It means putting progress in chains and liberty in fetters. It means fixing a standard of living at the minimum of life and liberty which must remain fixed. America's workers can not accept that proposition."

Strong denial was made that wages are a determining factor in high prices. Responsibility for this condition was charged to the inflation of money and credits, to manufacturing, selling and marketing profiteers and to middlemen and speculators. The following remedies were proposed:

"The deflation of currency, prevention of hoarding and unfair price fixing, establishment of co-operative movements started under the Roosevelt administration, making accessible all income tax returns and divided profits sections of the direct and truthful means of revealing excessive costs and profits.

"The ideal of America should be the organization of industry for service and not for profit alone. The stigma of disgrace should attach to every employer who puts profit at the expense of his fellow men.

"Labor fully realizes that the world needs things for use and that mankind's life and happiness depend on production for use and consumption increases. Labor is anxious to work out better methods for industry and demands it be assured that increased productivity will be used for service and not alone for profits.

We hold that the organization of wage earners into trade unions and the establishment of collective bargaining are the first steps toward the proper development of our industrial machinery for service."

The conference demanded that control over credit should be taken from financiers and placed in a public agency that would administer this power as a public trust in the interests of all the people.

"Credit is the life blood of modern business. At present under the control of private financiers it is administered, not primarily to serve the needs of production, but the desire of financial agencies to levy a toll upon community activity at high or low tariffs will bear."

"Credit is inherently social. It should be accorded in proportion to confidence in production possibilities. Credit is now administered does not serve industry, but burdens it. It increases unearned incomes at the expense of earned incomes. It is the center of the malevolent forces that control the spirit and purpose of industry."

Continuation of government administration of the railroads for at least two years after January 1 next was favored in order that a thorough test may be made of governmental operation under normal conditions.

The United States senate was called upon to ratify the peace treaty.

The following were recommended require the action of our people upon legislation, economic and political field," and "we urge that every practical step be taken by the American Federation of Labor, with the co-operation of all other organizations of workers, farmers and sympathetic, liberty-loving citizens of the United States, to put into effect the principles and purposes set forth in the declarations of this conference."

PEACE IN INDUSTRY THROUGH MUTUALITY

Washington, Dec. 20.—"Peace in industry cannot be maintained unless there is first recognized the right of collective bargaining," said Secretary of Labor Wilson in his annual report.

"The remedy for industrial discord, the secretary finds, is in mutual counsel. "But this is not possible," he said, "unless there is first recognized the right of collective bargaining. In the past this right has been conceded by some employers, but virtuously combated by others. The public interest demands that it be universally recognized, for the primary interest of the public is in peace.

"The denial of organization is a denial of the only means of peaceable negotiation that wage earners have.

"The right of any man to cease work, or for another to employ him that is sufficient to himself is the basis element of human liberty. The right of a laborer to refuse to operate his plant at any time he desires is as the exercise of property and liberties guaranteed by the constitution. It does not follow that because these rights exist it is necessary to exercise them. They must nevertheless be safeguarded. Having the choice and having devised the machinery by which they may be exercised and by which everybody at interest has the opportunity of knowing that justice has been secured, it is not justifiable the right to cease work will be exercised lightly or unfairly in the face of the rest of the people."

President Wilson urges the re-establishment of the working conditions service and the United States industrial commission, which were discontinued with the end of the war. The working conditions service has set up machinery for investigating the working conditions and wages affected and with financial aid being given the strike by organized workers throughout the country. It has been possible to starve the strikers.

U. S. PAYS LOW WAGE.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Organized government employes suggest that the $1,000 annual wage paid to congress read testimony being developed at hearings of a committee on reclassification of salaries that has been appointed by congress. The board did not ask the department of the patent office, where 51 persons were employed, there to be reclassified, but during the past year. One witness testified that the department of the patent office the resignations are responsible for weeks of delay to secure applications that could formerly be secured "in 15 minutes." It was testified that the patent office clerks working on an annual salary of $720 and that during the year 1919 they found it impossible to get clerks at that figure and when they did get clerks, average salary was $1,700 a year.

FINE DISTINCTION.

New York, Dec. 20.—At the trial of John J. Dempsey, vice president of the New York Consolidated Railway company, when a head-on car wreck killed 100 passengers, in 1918, the board deadlocked in ignoring a decision by the national war labor board that 29 victimized members of the Brotherhood of Interurban Engineers be reinstated.

"The board did not make a decision in this case," said Dempsey. "The board made a recommendation."

A strike followed the company's refusal to reinstate the men, it was hood men. The company placed a green man in charge of a train, in spite of management's obstinacy destroyed 100 lives because of the wreck.

BIG PROFITS IN ICE.

New York, Dec. 20.—A state legislative committee has uncovered some interesting facts in connection with the wholesale ice industry. One company paid 1,000 per cent profit at $2.75 a ton. Some dealers refused to show their books to the committee. Others, it is said, department, notified the brokers that they must get authority from the legislature to pry into their retail business.

GAINS BY HATTERS.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—Organized hatters are meeting with success in negotiating their new agreements, which call for wage increases and improved working conditions.

TO START CO-OP. STORES.

Lancaster, Pa., Dec. 20.—Trade unionists are discussing the establishment of co-operative stores in different sections of this city.

Labor Conference Decisions Summarized

Washington, Dec. 20.—The following are one-sentence summaries of the more important declarations made by the conference of national and international trade unions and railroad brotherhood executives, held in this city on December 13:

The power of the purse for human freedom must not have been won in vain.

Right to strike must be maintained.

Steel trust's labor policy is autocratic.

The labor injunction is a revolutionary measure, a substitute for federal constitution.

Government employes must be protected in their right to join A. F. of L. unions.

Anti-strike legislation would establish involuntary servitude.

Federal judges should be elected by the people if they have no constitutional right to invalidate laws.

Anti-trust legislation has been used to outlaw unions and has not protected the people against monopolistic combinations.

The system of fixing wages solely by the cost of living must be abolished and a living wage established.

Inflation of money and credits and profiteering manufacturers, dealers, middlemen and speculators are responsible for high prices.

High prices can be reduced by the deflation of currency; prevention of hoarding and unfair price fixing, Roosdale system of co-operation and the application of the anti-trust laws to profits and dividend declarations.

The ideal of America should be the organization of industry for service and not for profit alone.

"The right of any man to cease work or for another to employ him that is sufficient to himself is the basis element of human liberty. The right of a laborer to refuse to operate his plant at any time he desires is as the exercise of property and liberties guaranteed by the constitution. It does not follow that because these rights exist it is necessary to exercise them. They must nevertheless be safeguarded. Having the choice and having devised the machinery by which they may be exercised and by which everybody at interest has the opportunity of knowing that justice has been secured, it is not justifiable the right to cease work will be exercised lightly or unfairly in the face of the rest of the people."

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HOW TO BREAK UNIONS.

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 20.—The Leather Workers' Journal quotes a leather manufacturer as declaring that the employer can break a labor union, yet labor unions have been broken.

"The weakest link in the chain," Workers' Journal, "had in mind, of course, a labor union, and the chain which could not be broken by the employer, and the ones which have been broken were those which were only union in name, and broken from within through disloyalty, neglect and inefficiency."

This labor paper urges unionists to prepare for days that will come as a result of reduced prices of commodities, which will be brought about by the present anti-labor campaign. It is declared that "this is not a prediction, but is forecast, and is simply an inevitable law," and that contraction of the national currency with a lowering of prices will surely follow.

The Leather Workers' Journal declares that the only solution is a 100 per cent trade union, and to prepare for the inevitable, the following suggestions should be observed:

"Organize now to the fullest extent possible, instruct all the members, both new and old, to be present at every meeting and attendance and interest in the meetings of the local unions. Study the conditions and conditions in the industry where you are employed."

MAKES STRIKING A CRIME.

Morgantown, W. Va., Dec. 20.—The West Virginia war-time law which compels men between the ages of 16 and 50 years to work at least 36 hours per week or go to prison, Charles Boswell, president of the Lowsville Miners' union, Boswell was indicted by the grand jury. The charge against the unionist was based on a complaint filed by the company.

The law was intended to round up slackers and force them to work during the war, although previous arrests have been made to apply it to workers on strike.

DEPEND ON AGITATION

London, England, Dec. 20.—At a special meeting of the British Trades Union Congress it was voted to continue the agitation for nationalization of the mines, "if the government refuses" to consider this question another conference will be called early next year. A small group of the 850 delegates favored direct action, but this did not impress the majority. Whose spokesmen urged that the public should be educated through agitation. It was stated that 100 declarations for nationalization would be immediately held throughout England. Some of these meetings will be of gigantic proportions.

CARPENTERS GAIN.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 20.—Carpenters have signed their scales in agreement with their organized employers. Carpenters and millwrights, $1 an hour; carpenters on tower work above 45 feet in height, $1.10; foremen, $1.10; night work, time and one-half; Saturday afternoon, double time. Developed through agitation. It was stated that 100 declarations for nationalization would be immediately held throughout England. Some of these meetings will be of gigantic proportions.

ENGINEERS RAISE WAGES.

Providence, R. I., Dec. 20.—Hoisting engineers have increased wages $3 a week, reduced the work day from eight and secured extra pay for overtime.

WORKERS ARE NOT SLAVES.

Washington, Dec. 20.—"Workers are free citizens, not slaves," was the note of decision reached by the conference of trade union executives held in this city, December 13.

"We reaffirm our constitutional right to cease working. The right to strike is fundamentally democratic measure. To penalize strikes or to make them unlawful is to put an end to democracy. It is destructive method when a construction is available. To reduce the necessity for strikes, the cause should be found and removed. Any government has a greater obligation in this matter than to use its coercive powers.

"Legislation which proposes to make strikes unlawful or to compel men to work against their wishes, their grievances or aspirations to courts of law is to propose methods that are a invasion of the rights of the wage earners, and which respect for humanity is destructive serfdom or slavery.

"We hold that the government should supply information, assistance and counsel, but that it has been proved by the forces of its own power to stifle or to destroy voluntary organizations of mutuality between employers and employes.

"We specifically denounce the anti-strike provisions of the Cummins bill and the Kansas industrial court legislation as un-American, as being provisions of the most vicious character, establishing by legislation involuntary servitude."

EX-SOLDIERS STAND FOR LAW.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The American Legion in the nation's capital has declared for law and order in the Washington street car strike, they battled for across the water. This action was taken when it was announced that a well-known Austrian violinist would appear in the city. The violinist has been permitted to play in some sections of the country, and the legion has declared he brought before officers of the American Legion in this city, the following declaration was adopted:

"Resolved, that the executive committee of the District of Columbia department of the American Legion would look with extreme disfavor and disapprobation upon any lawless demonstration or mob violence permitted in the streets of the District of Columbia, believing as it does that such action would definitely indicate a lack of faith in the established institutions of this country, and a disregard for the due process of the legion being the preservation of law."

WON STEEL STRIKE.

Wheeling, W. Va., Dec. 20.—Employes of the Wheeling Steel and Iron company have returned to work, the company agreeing to recognize committees of their employes. Other mills in this district are tied up.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Cleveland, Dec. 20.—Officers of the Typographical union have negotiated a new scale of $42 a week for machine operators employed on day work in newspaper and commercial shops. The rate for night work is $45 a week.

BLACKSMITHS UNITE.

Caldwell, Idaho, Dec. 20.—Blacksmiths have organized and affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths

IGNORE SUGAR HOLD-UP CONDEMN COAL MINERS

Washington, Dec. 20.—Can speculators corner the sugar market and escape censure while coal miners are severely criticized for withholding relief from living standards that forbid? Administrator Garfield has answered "No."

Car loads of white paper have been used to convince the public that the miners' demands were "outrageous," that they were a menace to life and happiness, but the sugar manipulators, whose greed for excessive profits is costing the people millions of dollars, are not even mentioned. Sugar in this country will be about 5,664,000 tons, or 12,000,000 pounds short. This includes sugar for household, manufacturing and all other purposes. It is estimated that the shortage at this time the price of this commodity is to be increased 2½ cents, and that the people an additional $301,200,000.

The Cuban raw sugar crop of last year was 4,000,000 tons, 4,500,000 tons, was bought for 5½ cents a pound. The present government equalization board set 9 cents a pound as the retail price for the finished sugar in the United States.

Four months ago the board recommended that the Cuban raw sugar crop be bought for 6½ cents a pound. Every practical man knew that Dr. Taussig recommended that "the law of supply and demand" be permitted to operate. The result of a new mineral, and there would be another discovery. Shortage means high prices. Scarcity means that wealth is created, and through which a continuous readjustment takes place. The steel machinery must be the units of industry themselves; the organized, skilled workers and employers, bankers and brokers, salesmen and manufacturers, men or women, for they are the only factors that can function. Any other method is a waste of time.

"That is the ultimate. We will get there in the end. The war is the infection of a geographical government in an age of industry."

CHILDREN NEGLECTED.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The United States has not quite lived up to its duty as a foster parent, according to the annual report of the chief of the children bureau, United States department of labor.

In Porto Rico, which has been for 20 years under American protection, there are, according to the last report of the insular chief of police, 20,000 children between the ages of 12 years of age who live by whatever occupation they can secure, many by begging or stealing, and most of them having no permanent lodging place, sleeping at night in boxes or on doorsteps, or wherever they happen to be when the place comes from the rain. These children are for the most part deserted and abandoned children, of illegitimate parentage or orphan children whose parents have left no provision for their care and education, and they constitute a fertile soil for the implanting of habits of indolence and a ready material for older people of criminal habits."

In spite of the magnitude of the problem, no provision has been made in Porto Rico for the care of neglected children, and the fatalities for the care of delinquent children are inadequate.

UNIONS AGAIN "FAIL."

Dayton, Ohio, Dec. 20.—The Dayton and Xenia traction line is being operated by non-union. The Dayton Labor News prints this story on one of the "free and independent" motormen employed by this concern:

"During a recent rainy day a motorman was standing on the west bound platform waiting for a car. He would have to buy a mat on which to stand. Asked whether the company didn't provide this protection, he replied:

"Company hell! Them damned union men on the other lines failed to ask for the mats when they had the strike and got 'em all right. I'm standing in water or buy our own protection. Then Anyone ain't no good."

TEACHERS' WAGE IS LOW.

Washington, Dec. 20.—School Life, issued by the United States bureau of education, suggests that salaries of city officials and teachers in the various parts of the country be compared. It is shown that the mayor of Fond Du Lac, Wis., was paid $25 in 1905, and this was advanced in 1919 to $1,000. The same period the chief of police, chief of the fire department and other high officials received a 50 per cent increase, while the superintendent of schools and high school principals were advanced 100 per cent. The highest increase for high school teachers was 33 per cent and grammar school teachers 11 per cent.

TO UNITE WORKERS.

Cincinnati, Dec. 20.—Officers of the International Union of United Brewery, Flour, Cereal and Soft Drink Workers have started a campaign in several Illinois and Iowa cities to organize the corn products, starch, syrup and cereal plants in the North America.

SOVIET SYSTEM ANALYZED; IS RULERSHIP FROM ABOVE

Washington, Dec. 20. — In an analysis of the Russian soviet system of government, in the house of representatives, Congressman Fred A. Britten, of Illinois, destroyed the beautiful picture of Russian wage-earners and farmers in complete control of that country. It was shown that this alleged democracy is the same old system of government by the few, bedecked in phrases that are intended to appeal to the imagination.

The lawmaker did not depend on the efforts of fancy, but he relied on the simple method of explaining the soviet system, of quoting from the Russian constitution, and then comparing these with the American system of direct voting.

Starting his analysis with definitions, Congressman French said:

"Russia, considered as a whole, is divided into regions, provinces, counties, rural and village units. Then we have the governing body of each unit. This governing body is known as a soviet.

"There is no magic in the word 'soviet.' It means a council. It means a legislative or deliberative body. And as well be called a council, a congress or a parliament. There are several different soviets — the local rural, the village or urban, the provincial, district or county soviet, and the All-Russian Congress of Soviets, which is the supreme governing body of the country. These may correspond to deliberate bodies of our precincts, our counties, our states and our nation."

The speaker then explained the working of elections. In the case of the industrial worker, he votes by trades or crafts to fix a representative to the local (village or city) soviet. That is the last political expression these voters have so the local soviet elects representatives to the county soviet, the county soviet elects representatives to the provincial (state) soviet and the provincial soviet elects representatives to the All-Russian Congress of Soviets.

The same absence of genuine democracy is seen in the working of the All-Russian Congress of Soviets. It elects its executive committee of 200. This committee selects another committee of 21 members, and one presiding over other committees chosen by the 200. The committee of 21, called the council of people's commissars, exercise the function of a cabinet department of the government.

"The chairmanship of the foreign affairs committee," said Congressman French, "is the office that is now held by Nicolai Lenine, the chairman of the committee on military affairs is the office filled by Trotsky. It is by virtue of his chairmanship of this commissariat that Mr. Lenine has been almost universally hailed as premier, the head of the Russian government.

"Mr. Lenine, then, is responsible not to the people, not to the country, but to the All-Russian Congress. He is responsible to the executive committee of the All-Russian Congress of Soviets, which in turn is responsible to the congress. He is from three to five times removed from any voting power of the people of Russia."

Contrasting the working of this system with the American process of direct voting, "Is it possible," said Congressman French, "that this thoughtful person can contrast this system of rule by the few that obtains in Russia and find that the system in Russia is more democratic?"

FLAG PROFITEERING PROVES PROFITABLE

Washington, Dec. 20. — The patriotism of gougers and profiteers was ridiculed in the senate by Mr. Capper of Kansas, who declared that while the people made sacrifices and fought during the war, and are still fighting the accidents, "these industries have paid no part of the cost of the conflict and therefore have they contributed anything to help the government reduce the price of necessities and prices and for tremendous profits. And now they are collecting their share of the interest of the people's blood, to teach that it is profitable to be a patriot, useful and important able to carry on industry for the mere purpose of making money.

"The Kansas senator declared he will "vote to put a tax on everything every measure which will stamp out the profiteering and gouging that has robbed the people of billions of dollars. $80 hand-me-downs and $18 hats fix the standard of living. Profiteering the people have bought and paid for all the war. They have built mills in a single year, as during the war they brought and paid for all the nine mills that are in the country today. All the steel mills, the saw mills, the packing houses, the tanneries, the coal mines, and who knows what else, and yet do not own them and are at their mercy.

"The war is over, but speculation, profiteering, gouging and robbery rampant as ever, and more daring.

"This country is the hungriest and poor trade by comparison."

PROFITEERS KNOCKED OUT.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—In an address on H. R. 17, a conference statement General Palmer declared unresisting war on profiteering.

"In every line of trade," he said, "there are selfish and greedy men who have taken advantage of the war conditions to add to their private fund, profits which men are the profits of which I propose to get. I propose by power at my command to reach them and to compel them to disgorge, and, if necessary, to public prosecution, and I believe that unpatriotic, he is criminal."

The attorney general was as vigorous in his denunciation of the profiteer when he opened war on high prices. "Profiteering is more hurting, more real dealers," he said. "They have had their harvest time and now the people are to be the harvested.

"Merchants are shooting sky rocketing prices on the backs of the people for lower prices. When demand is lessened the supply is increased and these rogues are caught."

MINERS' CASES POSTPONED.

Indianapolis, Dec. 20.—Charges of contempt of court preferred against President Lewis and nearly 100 other members of the United Mine Workers of America by Judge A. B. Anderson, of the United States district court, were called up in the near future to ascertain if the miners were "obeying his order."

The court seems to think he intended to call off the strike, but the strike.

Judge Anderson made an exception in the case of Alexander Howatt, president of the Kansas Miners' union, who has already suffered with the settlement of the strike.

FEW LIVES LOST ON SHIPS.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The chances of losing your life at sea on a steamship are very small, it was. 1,666,582 to one, according to statistics compiled by the United States steamboat inspection service. The total number of passengers carried was 1,666,582 and the chances of the lives lost, 178 were from explosion of boilers, 36 by fire, service to prevent, the report said, leaving a loss of 142 lives as fatalities to passengers in accidents, collisions and founderings.

ELECTRICIANS WIN.

Wheeling, W. Va., Dec. 20.—The Wheeling Electric company has promised its organized electricians that six days constitute a week and will hereafter be observed. The men have been accepted this promise and returned to work.

MEAT CUTTERS GAIN.

San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 20.—Organized meat cutters have secured a 25% weekly rate to 200 shortened hours and abolished Sunday work.